

Customer No.: 31561
Application No.: 10/065,343
Docket No.: 9527-US-PA

REMARKS

Present Status of the Application

The Office Action rejected all presently-pending claims 1-11. Specifically, the Office Action rejected claims 1-11 under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the enablement requirement. Moreover, the Office Action rejected claims 1-5, 8-11 under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over Groves (US Patent No. 6,402,546) in view of Tomaro (US Patent No. 3,937,543). In addition, the Office Action rejected claims 6 and 7 under 35 USC §103 as being unpatentable over Groves in view of Tomaro, and further in view of Bean (U. S. Patent No. 6,428,348). Reconsideration and allowance of those claims is respectfully requested.

Discussion of Office Action Rejections

Response to Claims Rejections under 35 USC§ 112

Claims 1-5 and 8-11 under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the enablement requirement.

Examiner states that how the separation of the DC plug from the DC connector can be made is not described. Moreover, the specification (p. 5, para. 0025) suggests a structural features "to prevent a separation of the DC plug 218 from the DC connector port 214 while allowing a relative rotation there between.

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However, according to FIG. 3 and the specification (p. 5, para. 0024), the DC plug and the DC connector port are separate originally and the connection method is described, for example, by snap fitting or etc. According to FIG. 3 and the specification (p. 5, para. 0025), it is disclosed that "When the DC plug 218 is inserted in the DC connector port 214, a rim of the opening 210 of the casing 208 engages by fitting with the slot 220 of the insulating part 218a to prevent a separation of the DC plug 218 from the DC connector port 214 while allowing a relative rotation there between. It is noted that, since the DC plug 218 is inserted in the DC connector port 214, the DC plug 218 and the DC connector port 214 are separate originally. Moreover, it is noted that the feature "to prevent a separation of the DC plug 218 from the DC connector port 214" is performed only after the DC plug is inserted in the DC connector port, and the DC plug 218 and the DC connector port 214 still can be separate.

Thus, one skilled in the art can be enabled by the description "wherein the DC plug is detachable from the DC connector port" according to the specification and the figures.

Response to Claims Rejections under 35 USC§ 103

Claims 1-5 and 8-11 under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over Groves in view of Tomaro.

As will be fully explained below, Groves in view of Tomaro does not disclose the subject matter defined in claims 1 and 10 as proposed herein.

Independent claim 1, as amended, states:

Claim 1. A power adapter having a freely rotatable direct current (DC) plug connection, comprising:
a main body, including a casing that respectively encloses an adapter circuit board, a DC

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connector port and an alternating current (AC) connector port, the DC connector port and the AC connector port being respectively arranged on the adapter circuit board;

a DC wire, having a first terminal electrically connected to a DC plug that mates with the DC connector port according to a freely rotatable manner, wherein the DC plug is detachable from the DC connector port; and

an AC wire, having a second terminal electrically connected to the AC connector port.

(Emphasis Added)

Independent claim 1 is allowable for at least the reasons that Groves in view of Tomaro at least do not disclose, teach, or suggest the features that "the DC plug is detachable from the DC connector port" described above.

First of all, as to the patent of Groves, the Examiner states that the Groves et al does not disclose that the DC plug mates the DC connector port in a freely rotatable manner. In addition, in the patent of Groves, the cable 404 can not be disconnected from the assembly 402.

Secondly, as to the patent of Tomaro, the plug 24 can not be disconnected from the conductors 50 and 58 since "fastener 63 is of the type which can be pushed on to pin 30 by moving it toward the left in FIG. 3, but which cannot be moved to the right with respect to pin 30 once it has been pushed on to the pin" (see Tomaro, col. 3, lines 7-10).

Thus, Groves and Tomaro, let alone or combination thereto, does not anticipate claim 1 obvious. The process of Groves in view of Tomaro does not establish a Prima Facie Case of Obviousness against the subject matter of claim 1. The withdrawal of the rejections and the allowance of claim 1 are therefore earnestly solicited.

Indepndnt claim 10, as amended, states:

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Claim 10. A freely rotatable electrical connection structure of an electrical device, comprising:
an electrical device, having a casing in which is arranged a direct current (DC) connector port and through which is defined an opening; and
an electrical plug, including an electrical connecting part and an insulating part, the electrical connecting part rotatably mating with the DC connector port, and the insulating part further including a slot that engages by fitting with a rim of the opening of the casing in order to secure the connection between the electrical plug and the DC connector port while allowing a free rotation there between;
wherein the electrical connecting part is detachable from the DC connector port.

(Emphasis Added)

Independent claim 10 is allowable for at least the reasons that Groves in view of Tomaro at least do not disclose, teach, or suggest the features that “the DC plug is detachable from the DC connector port” described above.

First of all, as to the patent of Groves, the Examiner states that the Groves et al does not disclose that the DC plug mates the DC connector port in a freely rotatable manner. In addition, in the patent of Groves, the cable 404 can not be disconnected from the assembly 402.

Secondly, as to the patent of Tomaro, the plug 24 can not be disconnected from the conductors 50 and 58 since “fastener 63 is of the type which can be pushed on to pin 30 by moving it toward the left in FIG. 3, but which cannot be moved to the right with respect to pin 30 once it has been pushed on to the pin” (see Tomaro, col. 3, lines 7-10).

Thus, Groves and Tomaro, let alone or combination thereof, does not anticipate claim 10 obvious. The process of Groves in view of Tomaro does not establish a Prima Facie Case of Obviousness against the subject matter of claim 10. The withdrawal of the rejections and the allowance of claim 10 are therefore earnestly solicited.

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For at least the foregoing reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that independent claims 1 and 10 patently define over the prior art, and should be allowed. For at least the same reasons, dependent claims 2-19 and 11 patently define over the prior art as well.

Therefore, as to the rejection of claims 6 and 7 under 35 USC §103 as being unpatentable over Groves in view of Tomaro, and further in view of Bean, Applicant respectfully submits that the dependent claims 6 and 7 patently define over the prior art since the independent claim 1 patently define over the prior art.

About Newly Added Claims

Claims 12-22 are newly added claims according to claims 1-11 respectively and sequentially.

Independent claim 12 is allowable for at least the reasons that Groves in view of Tomaro at least do not disclose, teach, or suggest the features that "wherein the DC plug and the DC connector port are separate, and when the DC plug is inserted in the DC connector port, a rim of an opening of the casing is engaged by fitting with a slot of the DC plug to prevent a separation of the DC plug from the DC connector port while allowing a relative rotation between the DC plug and the DC connector port."

Independent claim 21 is allowable for at least the reasons that Groves in view of Tomaro at least do not disclose, teach, or suggest the features that "wherein the electrical plug and the DC connector port are separate, and when the electrical plug is inserted in the DC connector port, the

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rim of an opening of the casing is engaged by fitting with the slot of the electrical plug to prevent a separation of the electrical plug from the DC connector port while allowing a relative rotation between the electrical plug and the DC connector port."

The newly added claims 12 and 21 are according to the specification (p. 5, para. 0024 and 0025), and newly added claims 13-20 and 22 are the same as the original claims 2-9 and 11. It is believed that the foregoing amendments add no new matter to the present application. Applicants believe that these amendments place the claims in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and allowance of the application and presently pending claims are respectfully requested.

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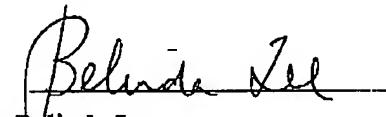
CONCLUSION

For at least the foregoing reasons, it is believed that all pending claims 1-11 and newly added claims 12-22 are in proper condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes that a telephone conference would expedite the examination of the above-identified patent application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

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